NUMB. XLIX.

The SPECTATOR.

— Hominem pagina noſtra ſapit. Mart.

Thurſday, April 26. 1711.

IT is very natural for a Man who is not turned for Mirthful Meetings of Men, or Aſſemblies of the fair Sex, to delight in that ſort of Converſation which we find in Coffee-houſes. Here a Man, of my Temper, is in his Element; for, if he cannot talk, he can ſtill be more agreeable to his Company, as well as pleaſed in himſelf, in being only an Hearer. It is a Secret known but to few, yet of no ſmall uſe in the Conduct of Life, the when you fall into a Man's Converſation, the firſt thing you ſhould conſider is, whether he has a greater inclination to hear you, or that you ſhould hear him. The latter is the more general Deſire, and I know very able Flatterers that never ſpeak a word in Praiſe of the Perſons from whom they obtain daily Favours, but ſtill practiſe a skilful Attention to whatever is uttered by thoſe with whom they converſe. We are very Curious to obſerve the Behaviour of Great Men and their Clients; but the ſame Paſſions and Intereſts move Men in lower Spheres; and I (that have nothing elſe to do, but make Obſervations) ſee in every Pariſh, Street, Lane, and Alley of this Populous City, a little Potentate that has his Court, and his Flatterers who lay Snares for his Affection and Favour, by the ſame Arts that are practiſed upon Men in higher Stations.

In the Place I moſt uſually frequent, Men differ rather in the time of Day in which they make a Figure, than in any real Greatneſs above one another. I, who am at the Coffee-houſe at Six in a Morning, know that my Friend *Beaver* the Haberdaſher has a Levy of more undiſſembled Friends and Admirers, than moſt of the Courtiers or Generals of *Great Britain*. Every Man about him has, perhaps, a News Paper in his Hand, but none can pretend to gueſs what Step will be taken in any one Court of *Europe*, 'till Mr. *Beaver* has thrown down his Pipe, and declares what Meaſures the Allies muſt enter into upon this new Poſture of Affairs. Our Coffee-houſe is near one of the Inns of Court, and *Beaver* has the Audience and Admiration of his Neighbours from Six 'till within a Quarter of Eight, at which time he is interrupted by the Students of the Houſe; ſome of whom are ready Dreſs'd for *Weſtminſter*, at Eight in a Morning, with Faces as buſie as if they were retain'd in every Cauſe there; and others come in their Night-Gowns to Saunter away their Time, as if they never deſigned to go thither. I do not know that I meet, in any of my Walks, Objects which move both my Spleen and Laughter ſo effectually, as thoſe Young Fellows at the *Grecian*, *Squire*'s, *Searle*'s, and all other Coffee-houſes adjacent to the Law, who riſe early for no other purpoſe but to publiſh their Lazineſs. One would think theſe young *Virtuoſo's* take a gay Cap and Slippers, with a Scarf and Party-colour'd Gown, to be Enſigns of Dignity; for the vain Things approach each other with an Air, which ſhows they regard one another for their Veſtments. I have obſerved, that the Superiority among theſe proceeds from an Opinion of Gallantry and Faſhion: The Gentleman in the Strawberry Saſh, who preſides ſo much over the reſt, has, it ſeems, ſubſcribed to every Opera this laſt Winter, and is ſuppoſed to receive Favours from one of the Actreſſes.

When the Day grows too buſie for theſe Gentlemen to enjoy any longer the Pleaſures of their *Deſhabille*, with any manner of Confidence, they give Place to Men who have Buſineſs or good Senſe in their Faces, and come to the Coffee-houſe either to tranſact Affairs or enjoy Converſation. The Perſons to whoſe Behaviour and Diſcourſe I have moſt regard, are ſuch as are between theſe two ſorts of Men: Such as have not Spirits too Active to be happy and well pleaſed in a private Condition, nor Complexions too warm to make them neglect the Duties and Relations of Life. Of theſe ſort of Men conſiſt the worthier Part of Mankind; of theſe are all good Fathers, generous Brothers, ſincere Friends, and faithful Subjects. Their Entertainments are derived rather from Reaſon than Imagination: Which is the Cauſe that there is no Impatience or Inſtability in their Speech or Action. You ſee in their Countenances they are at home, and in quiet Poſſeſſion of the preſent Inſtant, as it paſſes,

passes, without desiring to Quicken it by gratifying any Passion, or prosecuting any new Design. These are the Men formed for Society, and those little Communities which we express by the Word *Neighbourhoods*.

The Coffee-house is the Place of Rendezvous to all that live near it, who are thus turned to relish calm and ordinary Life. *Eubulus* presides over the middle Hours of the Day, when this Assembly of Men meet together. He enjoys a great Fortune handsomely, without launching into Expence, and exerts many noble and useful Qualities, without appearing in any publick Employment. His Wisdom and Knowledge are serviceable to all that think fit to make use of them; and he does the Office of a Council, a Judge, an Executor, and a Friend to all his Acquaintance, not only without the Profits which attend such Offices, but also without the Deference and Homage which are usually paid to them. The giving of Thanks is displeasing to him. The greatest Gratitude you can show him, is to let him see you are the better Man for his Services; and that you are as ready to oblige others, as he is to oblige you.

In the private Exigencies of his Friends he lends, at legal Value, considerable Sums, which he might highly increase by rolling in the Publick Stocks. He does not consider in whose Hands his Mony will improve most, but where it will do most Good.

Eubulus has so great an Authority in his little Diurnal Audience, that when he shakes his Head at any Piece of publick News, they all of them appear dejected; and, on the contrary, go home to their Dinners with a good Stomach and chearful Aspect, when *Eubulus* seems to intimate that Things go well. Nay, their Veneration towards him is so great, that when they are in other Company they speak and act after him; are Wise in his Sentences, and are no sooner sat down at their own Tables, but they hope or fear, rejoice or despond as they saw him do at the Coffee-house. In a word, every Man is *Eubulus* as soon as his Back is turn'd.

Having here given an Account of the several Reigns that succeed each other from Day-break 'till Dinner-time, I shall mention the Monarchs of the Afternoon on another occasion, and shut up the whole Series of them with the History of *Tom* the Tyrant; who, as first Minister of the Coffee-house, takes the Government upon him between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve at Night, and gives his Orders in the most Arbitrary manner to the Servants below him, as to the Disposition of Liquors, Coal and Cinders.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of March, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate, Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.

For the Benefit of Mr. Johnson.

By her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this present Thursday, will be presented a Comedy, called, The Funeral; or, Grief A-la-mode. Written by Captain Steele. The part of Lord Brumpton to be perform'd by Mr. Keene, Lord Hardy by Mr. Gibber, Mr. Campley by Mr. Wilks, Mr. Trusty by Mr. Mills, Mr. Sable by Mr. Johnson, Puzzle by Mr. Estcourt, Trim by Mr. Penkethman, Lady Brumpton by Mrs. Rogers, Lady Harriot by Mrs. Oldfield, Lady Shatlot by Mrs. Porter, Madam de Pingle by Mrs. Bicknell, Ferdingale by Mr. Norris, Kate Match-lock by Mr. Bullock. And to Morrow will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Careless Husband, for the Benefit of Mrs. Bicknell.

This Play is Sold by Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-street in the Strand.

Dropt the 25th Instant from a Gentleman's Watch, coming from Bloomsberry down to Doyley's in the Strand, a Gold Chain, with a red Cornelian Seal, in which was cut a naked Woman, with this Motto, No Carrion kills a Crow. Whoever brings it to Mr. Charles Lillie's at the Corner of Beaufort Building in the Strand, shall receive a Guinea Reward, and no Questions askt.

At Stationers-Hall, this present Thursday the 26th of this Instant, will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, by the best Masters, for the Benefit of Mr. Dean; beginning at Seven a Clock. Tickets at Half a Crown each.

In a few Days will be Publish'd

The Life and Acts of Mathew Parker, the First Archbishop of Canterbury in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Under whose Primacy and Influence the Reformation of Religion was happily Effected; and the Church of England Restored, and Established upon the Principles whereon it stands to this Day. Wherein are related the said Archbishop's Actions in Ecclesiastical Commissions and Synods. His Visitations of the Dioceses, Colleges and Hospitals within his Province, with his Injunctions and Regulations: Characters and Accounts of the Bishops by him Consecrated: His Endeavours for Uniformity: His Diligence in Retrieving, and Publishing many Saxon, and other Ancient Historical MSS. of this Nation: His Procuring a more correct Translation of the Holy Bible: His Government of his own Diocese of Canterbury: His sober Thoughts, Counsels and Cares for Religion and this Church: And many Particulars of the Ecclesiastical History of those Times, hitherto Unknown, or very Obscure, are discovered and brought to Light, Compiled Faithfully out of Records, Registers, State-Papers, Orders of Council, Authentick Letters, and sundry other Original MSS. In Four Books. To which is added, An Appendix, containing various Transcripts of Records, Letters, Instruments, Ordinances, Commissions, Discourses, Relations, Intelligences, and other secret Papers, above an Hundred in Number; for the Asserting or Illustrating the foregoing History. Among which will be found the Latin Life of this A. Bp. Entituled, Matthæus, so much and so long wanted in the Editions of the British Antiquities. By John Strype, M. A. Printed for John Wyat, at the Rose in St. Paul's Church-yard.

The Retir'd Gardner. Vol. I. Being a Translation of Le Jardinier Solitaire, or, Dialogues between a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Making, ordering and Improving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden with many new Experiments, from the Second Edition Printed at Paris; together with the Manner of planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, Shrubs, and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens, &c. Vol. II. Containing the Manner of planting and Cultivating all sorts of Flowers, Plants, Shrubs, and Under-Shrubs, Necessary for the Adorning of Gardens; In which is Explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing of Parterres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Columns, and other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the most Beautiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with Variety of Figures, being a Translation from the Sieur Louis Liger. To this Volume is added, a Description and Plan of Count Tallard's Garden at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with several Alterations and Additions, which render it proper for our English Culture, By George London, and Henry Wise. Printed for Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-Street in the Strand.

The Grecian History Vol. I. Containing the space of 1684. Years. By Temple Stanyan, adorn'd with Cuts. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.